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1. NUCLEAR TESTS LIKELY TO BECOME MAJOR ISSUE AT UN

Comment on:

The growing apprehension among UN members about the effects of increased radiation has led to proposals by Norway and Canada for limiting nuclear tests.

A Canadian UN delegate told Ambassador

Lodge on 5 December that his government's proposal for a voluntary limit on the number of tests was designed primarily as a "trial balloon" to forestall proposals for a complete ban on testing. He added that Ottawa was disturbed by reports of high concentrations of radioactivity in British Columbia, and has filed them with the UN radiation committee.

The Norwegian foreign minister, in his 27 November policy speech before the UN, called for advanced registration with the UN of any "weapons tests expected to cause measurable, world-wide radioactive fallout." He had previously told the American embassy that the pressure of public opinion regarding the high increase of radioactivity in September made it essential for his government to raise the issue in this session.

India can be expected to raise the issue of banning the tests entirely. Prime Minister Nehru is expected to discuss this issue when he comes to the United States on 16 December. The USSR has attempted to seize the initiative on this issue at this assembly by calling for an unconditional ban on testing in its 17 November disarmament statement.

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ANNEX

Watch Report 331, 6 December 1956,
of the
Intelligence Advisory Committee

Conclusions on Indications of Hostilities

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the Intelligence Advisory Committee concludes that:

- A. No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.
- B. No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against US forces abroad, US allies or areas peripheral to the Orbit. Soviet alerts and other military activities in the Satellites and the USSR continue on a reduced scale.
- C. There are no known Soviet military moves which reflect a Soviet intention to intervene unilaterally in the Middle East. Although tensions continue within Syria and Iraq and between Syria and its neighbors, particularly Iraq, a deliberate initiation of hostilities in the area is improbable in the immediate future. Tensions over the Suez Canal problem have been reduced as a result of the announced intention of the British and French to withdraw their troops.

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